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## 3400 Forest Pest Management

## Hazard Tree Evaluation, Big Creek Falls, St. Helens Ranger District

## Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot NF

On May 10, Gregory M. Filip, Plant Pathologist from Forest Pest Management in the Regional Office, visited the St. Helens Ranger District. Purpose of the visit was to examine hazard trees in a proposed day use area at Big Creek Falls. He was accompanied by Jim Butterfus, SO Recreation Staff, and Francisco Valenzuela, District Recreation Staff.

The proposed developments at Big Creek Falls will be located in an old-growth Douglas-fir/cedar/hemlock stand. Trees within striking distance of the proposed parking lot, footbridge, and viewing deck were examined for indicators of tree failure (conks, large wounds, thin crowns). Basically, the stand is in reasonably good condition considering its age. We see no reason not to develop the area as proposed. However, while the site is being developed, all snags and living trees with many large wounds or conks should be removed if they are within striking distance of the proposed lot and structures. At least four hazard trees were identified.

We recommend that the site be inspected for hazard trees immediately after development to insure that all hazard trees have been removed. We also recommend that the site be inspected annually for hazard trees since, with time, the older trees in the stand will gradually die and may pose a hazard. If FPM can be of further service, please contact us.

JAMES S. HADFIELD

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cc:  
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